



# THE BARNYARD BULLETIN

March 2026

## February Recap

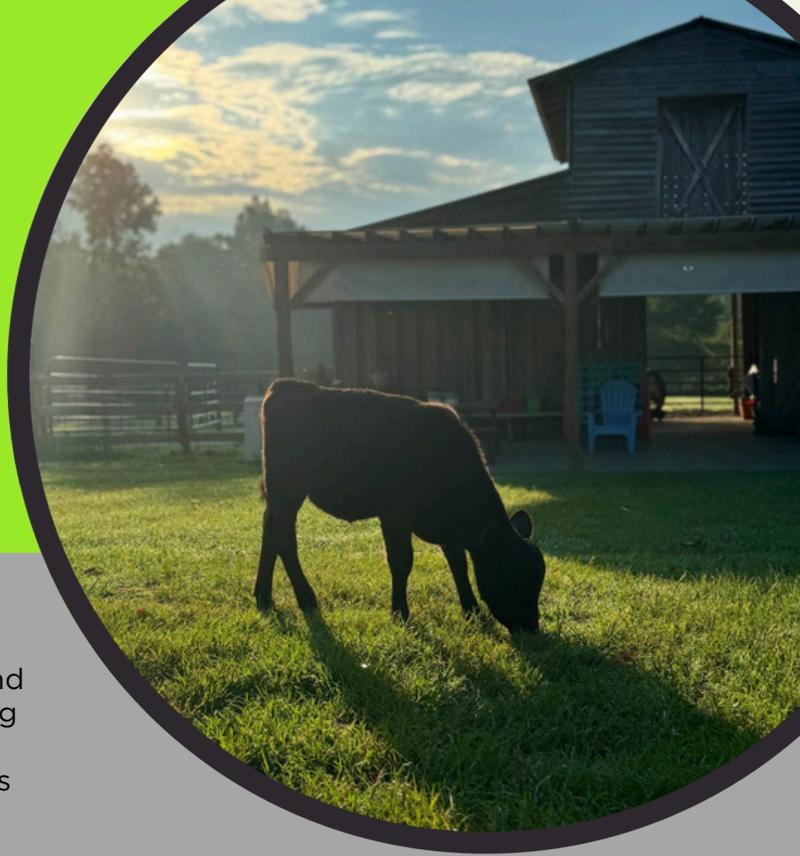
We wrapped up our Winter Program on a high note and have been busy preparing the garden for our upcoming spring planting season. A few beautiful warm weather days gave us the perfect opportunity to work outdoors and enjoy the farm together!

We're also proud to share that Josephine recently presented to IAHAIO, the worldwide organization that brings together research, practice and education in human-animal-interactions. Cooper Ridge was also featured on the news about our Spring program! We're looking forward to all that spring will bring!



## Annual Plant Sale!

Mark your calendar for our Annual Plant Sale on **April 18 from 9 AM-12 PM!** The plants available for purchase have been lovingly grown and cared for by our participants. When you buy a plant, you're not just adding beauty to your garden...you're supporting meaningful learning, growth, and purpose at the farm. Swing by to shop, connect, and celebrate the season with us! We'll also have ice-cold refreshments available for purchase from Wild Sugar. Join us for a day of planting with purpose!



## In this issue:

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- Meet The Team
- Upcoming Events



<https://www.facebook.com/CooperRidgeFarm>



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/>



<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



# March 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## What's Happening at Cooper Ridge?



### Spring Is Here!

We are very excited that our Spring Program is starting up, and hopefully bringing some warmer weather with it! Our participants have been getting the farm ready for spring plants to be planted for our garden and the plant sale. The chickens took the winter off for laying eggs, but they are back at it with the warmer weather. We even had our first goose egg laid a few days ago! The animals and people alike are excited for some warmer weather ahead!

### Coming Up At The Farm

We will be at Crew Idol on March 7, 2026 at 6PM to support REcIng Crew and some of our talented participants. Doors open at 5:30PM and tickets are available at the door for just \$5!

We are excited to be partnering once again with The Girls Scouts and hosting them at the farm for a day of learning all about Animal-Assisted Therapy and how it can apply to our daily lives!

### Success Story

One very special young man has been part of the Cooper Ridge Farm family for years. His curiosity and intelligence shine at each visit, especially when he's learning about the animals. His love for music is just as strong. Recently, he began attending his session at the same time as other participants. During one of these sessions, he started playing music, and something wonderful happened. One by one, the other participants were drawn in. What began as his own musical moment quickly became a shared memory that brought the whole group together.

We are so proud of the confidence, leadership, and heart he continues to show each time he visits the farm.



"Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms."

**-George Eliot**



**Did you know?**

Goats are actually very picky eaters...They use their lips to "taste" food and may even refuse to eat hay that has been walked on!

## How Can I Help?

**Donate Now!**



<https://cooperridgefarm.org/donate>



**Amazon Wishlist**

<https://shorturl.at/zSiL1>



# March 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## Beyond The Barn

In this section you'll gain an inside look at Cooper Ridge and the world of Animal Assisted Therapy, while learning how our work creates meaningful change through education and outreach.

**Have you listened to our latest podcast episode yet?  
Click the link to the right to listen now!**



### Let's Walk A Goat!

What may look like the simple task of taking a goat around the yard for a walk, is actually much more than that. Let's dive into what it actually takes to walk a goat!

Every step invites participants to practice communication, patience, body awareness, and emotional regulation. Goats are honest partners; they respond to energy, consistency, and confidence. Because of this, walking a goat becomes a powerful, hands-on opportunity to build real-life skills in a natural and engaging way!

#### Step 1: Meet & Observe

##### What happens:

- Participant is reminded of goat's preferences and how to interact appropriately
- Observe body language

##### Why it matters:

- Builds awareness
- Encourages perspective-taking

#### Step 2: Haltering the Goat

##### What happens:

- Participant observes haltering
- Practice gentle, slow movements
- Focus on positioning and safety

##### Why it matters:

- Fine motor skills
- Following multi-step directions
- Building confidence

#### Step 3: Beginning the Walk

##### What happens:

- Participant holds the lead with a "happy" or loose rope
- Works on pacing and correct positioning

##### Why it matters:

- Impulse control
- Body awareness
- Cause-and-effect learning

#### Step 4: Problem-Solving

##### What happens:

- Goat stops, pulls, or gets distracted
- Participant is coached through response
- Encourage flexible thinking

##### Why it matters:

- Frustration tolerance and emotional regulation
- Builds confidence
- Adaptive problem-solving

### Podcast Link

#### Spotify:

<https://shorturl.at/OXO2O>

#### Apple:

<https://shorturl.at/EiqAN>

### More Pictures





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# NEWSLETTER

## Golf Classic Information

Come along with us as we tee up for an incredible event that will support the individualized therapy programs that we have here at Cooper Ridge!



West Lake Country Club  
November 30, 2026

### \*\*CHANGE OF DATE!!

In an effort to keep everyone informed, we would like to share an update about our upcoming golf tournament. We've decided to move the event to a later date to give us more time to connect with new sponsors and golfers and build even stronger community support. This adjustment helps ensure the tournament is the fun, successful fundraiser our mission deserves. Thank you for your understanding and we can't wait to see you on the course!

### We Need Sponsors!

We are looking for business sponsors to partner with us for this exciting event. All proceeds from the golf classic will directly support our programs and the incredible participants who benefit from them.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in partnering with us, please send us their information, or share this link with them for more information: <https://cooperridgefarm.org/golf-tournament-2026>

### Our Sponsors:



1304 Richland Avenue West, Aiken, SC  
803.648.3875



### Golf Classic Info

Months Until  
The Golf Classic:

# 8



### Tickets/ Sponsors

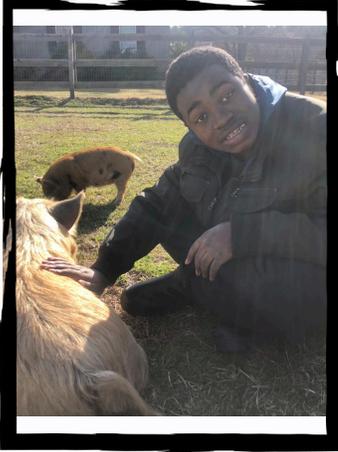
<https://cooperridgefarm.betterworld.org/events/1st-annual-cooper-ridge-farm-gol>



# March 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## Meet The Team



### Participant Spotlight: Ben Steed

Meet Ben! He has been coming to the farm for years and has grown so much in that time! You may have seen Ben at his piano or with a guitar in hand, playing music for everyone (and animals) on the farm. His favorite animal to visit at the farm is Jenny and he loves to learn facts about all of the animals.

### Animal Partner: Nugget

Meet Nugget! He is the brother to Snowball and loves being near her, however we often see him in the middle of the cow herd, so we call him an "honorary cow". He is our only goat without horns but he never lets that stop him. He is also training with talk buttons and is able to request treats and brushes...but mostly treats!



### Board Member Spotlight: Dee Salisbury

Dee has been a dedicated member of the Cooper Ridge Board of Directors since the very beginning. Serving as Secretary, she has been a guiding light and true visionary behind our mission.



Alongside our Founder, Josephine, Dee imagined a special place where people could connect deeply with animals while also focusing on their own self-development. From that shared dream, Cooper Ridge was born. With a heart of gold, Dee continues to actively support Cooper Ridge from her home in Indiana. She is enthusiastic, committed, and ready to help us build our future facility together. With her background in engineering and construction management, she brings invaluable knowledge, leadership, and strength to our team. We are beyond grateful for her vision, dedication, and unwavering support!



## Upcoming Events

**March 2  
Spring Program  
Begins**

**April 6-10  
Farm Closed for  
Spring Break**

**April 18  
Plant Sale!  
9AM-12PM**

**April 23-24  
Farm Closed for  
Conference**



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